



Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Update



USCG to Address Ballast Water Discharges by Vessels that Enter as No Ballast Onboard (NOBOB) Vessels

Approximately 70% of vessels that call on the Great Lakes declare No Ballast Onboard (NOBOB), however, these vessels carry residual ballast water and/or sediments that may contain aquatic nonindigenous species (NIS). Once these vessels enter the Great Lakes and take up ballast water, this water mixes with the residual water and sediments, and if discharged, may provide a mechanism for NIS to enter the Great Lakes. If NIS become established, an invasion can occur. To prevent the introduction of NIS into U.S. waters, the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA) authorizes the Coast Guard to regulate "all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks that enter a U.S. port on the Great Lakes," while also "taking into consideration different operating conditions," in promulgating these regulations. Since 1993, Coast Guard regulations promulgated under the authority of NANPCA have required vessels entering the Great Lakes from outside the U.S. EEZ with ballast to conduct mid-ocean exchange prior to entry. The intent of the mid-ocean exchange has been to remove as many organisms as possible before the vessel discharges ballast water into the Lakes.

Prior to entering the Great Lakes, every vessel first arrives in Montreal,

Quebec, Canada, where they must comply with the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation regulations which include complying with the Coast Guard ballast water regulations. If they do not comply, they are denied entrance into the Seaway and therefore denied entry into the Great Lakes. In addition, vessels entering the Great Lakes and declaring ballast water onboard are subject to a ballast water inspection. If non-compliant ballast water is discovered, the Coast Guard issues a retention letter and the vessel is re-inspected upon its down-bound voyage out of the Great Lakes to ensure the non-compliant ballast water was retained. NOBOB vessels may be randomly sampled to confirm their status. These regulations have resulted in the management of an estimated 99.5% of the foreign ballast water discharged into the Lakes.

The remaining approximately 0.5% of foreign ballast water enters in comparatively small volumes as the unpumpable residuals in NOBOB vessels. The residuals in ballast tanks can also carry foreign organisms, and studies suggest that ballast-mediated invasions have continued since the imposition of the current regulations. Some of these invasions may have been due to the discharge of ballast water contaminated by unpumpable residuals that entered the Lakes in NOBOBs. Approaches need to

be developed to prevent invasions due to the discharge of this remaining volume of residual ballast water.

NOBOB vessels are fully loaded with cargo, and thus unlike ballasted vessels, are not able to conduct mid-ocean exchange on their in-bound voyage. Since NOBOB vessels operate differently than vessels with ballast water, NOBOBs require a different approach in preventing the introduction of NIS into the Great Lakes than do ballast-laden vessels. Ballast water management strategies must be developed that are effective, practicable, enforceable, and specifically tailored for NOBOBs. Since 2000, the Coast Guard has been one of several agencies and non-governmental organizations supporting the Great Lakes NOBOB Project being conducted by the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Laboratory and its partners. This project has been designed to provide the Coast Guard and others with an understanding of the characteristics of NOBOB residuals and the potential efficacy of management practices. Based on a sound understanding of the amount and characteristics of residuals, and the operational patterns of the vessels, the Coast Guard can determine the best approach to manage the final 0.5% of the foreign ballast water carried in to the Lakes.

We are on the web!

www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mso/bwm.htm

NOBOB Public Meeting Draft Agenda

I. Formal Public Meeting (starts at 9 am)

**1. Welcome and Introductions
(9:00-9:15 am)** (RADM Robert Papp, Commander, Ninth Coast Guard District)

**2. Coast Guard ANS Program
(9:15-10:00 am)** (CDR Kathy Moore, Chief, U.S. Coast Guard's Environmental Standards Division)

**3. Coast Guard Ballast Water
Inspection Program
(10:00-10:30 am)** (LCDR James Bartlett, U.S. Coast Guard, MSD Massena)

**4. NOBOB Assessment Project
(10:45- 11:30 am)** (Dr. David Reid, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory)

II. Formal Public Meeting (cont'd)

**5. Issues Concerning NOBOB Man-
agement
(12:30-1:15 pm)** (Dr. Richard Everett, U.S. Coast Guard's Environmental Standards Division)

**6. Regulatory Development
(1:15-1:45 pm)** (Mr. Bivan Patnaik, U.S. Coast Guard's Environmental Standards Division)

**7. Opportunity for the public to
comment (2:00-4:00 pm)**

III. Close Public Meeting (ends at 4 pm)

IV. Informal Public Meeting (5-7 pm)

1. Allow public to view/read posters, fact sheets, etc.
2. Answer any questions
3. Opportunity for the public to comment
4. Identify issues-time permitting

Ballast Water Work Group Makes Progress at BLG 9

The Ballast Water Work Group met during the IMO Subcommittee on Bulk Liquids and Gases 9th Session (BLG 9), 4-8 April 2005. They made extraordinary progress in finalizing text of guidelines supporting last year's Ballast Water Management Convention. Guidelines on Ballast Water Management Plans, Ballast Water Exchange, and Ballast Water Management Equivalent Compliance will be forwarded to MEPC 53 for adoption by an MEPC resolution. Draft Guidelines on Sediment Reception Facilities and Ballast Water Reception Facilities were recommended for forwarding

to the Flag State Implementation Subcommittee (FSI) for comment prior to being recommended for adoption at MEPC 55 and draft Guidelines on Design and Construction to Facilitate Sediment Control on Ships were recommended for forwarding to the Subcommittee on Ship Design and Equipment (DE) prior to being recommended for adoption at MEPC 55. Significant progress was also made on the Draft Guidelines for Ballast Water Exchange Design and Construction Standards and the Secretariat was instructed to prepare an updated version of these Guidelines for further consideration at MEPC 53.

Calendar of Events

**May 9, 2005, 9 a.m.-
4p.m. and 5 p.m. -7 p.m.**
NOBOB Public Meeting
Anthony J. Celebreeze
Federal Building
1240 E 9th Street
Cleveland, OH 44419

June 27, 2005, 9:30 a.m.
MEPC 53 Public Meeting
Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 Second St, S.W.
Room 2415
Washington, DC 20593
Information: (202) 267-2079

July 18-22, 2005
MEPC 53
IMO Headquarters
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR UK

August 23-26, 2005
**Marine Bioinvasions
Conference**
Victoria University
Wellington, New Zealand



Environmental Standards Division
(G-MSO-4)
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters
2100 Second Street, S.W., Room 1601
Washington, DC 20593
Information line: 202-267-2716
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